

# The Measure of His Church

## Walking In His Image

### Lesson 6: Measuring Our Church by God's Standard

Text: Colossians 1:9-10, 11-12

#### Introduction

1. In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge a local church eldership faces, in leading the church family?
2. Colossians 1:9-10, 11-12
3. How can a local church, the body of Christ, become a dynamic growing church?
  - a. Do we have some examples of early local church activities (experiences) in the New Testament that can help a local church be what Christ intended for His church?
  - b. Can a church family be biblically sound and culturally relevant at the same time? see 1Cor.9:19-23
4. Where should a church leadership go to find the answer to the question just mentioned?

#### I. Three Fundamental Pillars – Acts 2:47

##### A. Their experience with the word of God – Acts 2:42

1. First, Peter and the other apostles on the day of Pentecost stood up to preach the gospel of Christ that day. **Acts 2:14-35**
2. Second, great conviction came into the hearts of a great multitude of the Jews that day. vs.36-38
  - a. How many were converted to Christ that day? vs.41
  - b. What did Peter and the apostles tell the people to do based on the question they asked in vs.37? see vs.38 and vs.21
  - c. What does "being converted to Christ" mean? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Third, these new believers "continued steadfastly in the apostles' teachings (doctrine)". see Matthew 28:19-20
  - a. What the apostles taught these new converts that day – and the days that followed, we are not told.
  - b. see **John 14:26; 16:12-17; Galatians 1:11-12; Ephesians 2:20; 3:5**
  - c. What can we assume the apostles taught these new converts?
  - d. What do we know from the text? Vs.42
    - (1) They were taught "**doctrine**".
    - (2) They were not taught doctrines of men. plural – teachings **Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:11-23; 1Timothy 4:1-2**
      - (a) What do doctrines of men do? \_\_\_\_\_ **1Cor. 1:10**
      - (b) Christ never told His apostles to teach doctrines (plural). **1Tim.4:16; 2Tim.3:16-17**
      - (c) Should Christians be united in doctrine?
4. Fourth, it would have been impossible for these new converts to mature in faith, hope and love without a knowledge of the "apostles' doctrine".
  - a. What did these new believers need the most? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. They needed some of what Paul spoke about in our anchor text - Eph.4:11-16;!John 3:19-23

##### B. Their experience with one another and with God – vs.42

1. **The new believers devoted themselves to "fellowship" (koinonia).**
  - a. Measuring: To have in common, agreement, to share in material goods
  - b. Its broader meaning: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are now partners together in Christ Jesus. 1Corinthians 1:9; Galatians 2:9; 1John 1:1-3; 2Corinthians 8:4 Compare Acts 2:44
  - d. see 2Corinthians 6:11-18

e. This experience (fellowship) was designed by God for what reason?

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**2. The ate together (breaking bread) – vs.42**

a. The expression "breaking bread" is referred to in two ways in the scriptures.

(1) It is referred to as eating a common meal.

a. Acts 2:46 b. Acts 20:11 c. Jude 12; 2Peter 2:13

(2) It also refers to the "Lord's Supper" (communion)

a. Acts 20:7 b. Acts 2:42 c. Matt. 26:26; 1Cor. 11:17-24 d. 1Cor.16:2

**3. They prayed together – vs.42**

a. Corporate prayer in Jerusalem was also a unique part of this dynamic fellowship(koinonia)

(1) What happens when brethren pray together?

(2) What do you suppose they prayed for when they met together?

(3) see **Acts 1:14**

**4. They shared their material possessions – vs.44-45**

a. Why was this needed at that time?

b. To answer this question, one needs to comprehend what was actually happening in Jerusalem and understand the unique cultural settings related to their Jewish customs.

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c. What happened on the day of Pentecost? Acts 2:1ff

(1) see 1:5,8

(2) see 2:1-11; 2:37-41

(3) These new converts decided to stay in Jerusalem. Their decision to stay, presented some unusual problems for the apostles.

(a) How could they care for the material needs of all these people?

(b) How was this problem solved? Vs.45

(4) Was it God's plan for these new believers to indefinitely stay in Jerusalem? 1:8

**5. They praised God together – vs.46, 47**

a. On a daily basis, they went to the temple.

b. This was a part of their dynamic fellowship experience.

c. What kind of "praising God" did they engage in?

(1) Mark 14:26 (2) Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19

d. Why is praising God with song so important to the human relationship between brethren?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 5:19

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 5:19

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:47

**C. Their experience with the unsaved world – vs.47**

1. What impact did these new converts have on the unconverted Jews in Jerusalem? And what about the God-fearing Greeks as well?

2. "having favor with all the people" – vs.47

3. Why were these non-believing Jews and Greeks so impressed with these Christ-followers?

4. What motivated the people not listen to the message of the gospel of Christ?

a. They were a new community based on \_\_\_\_\_.

b. What was this new community of believers doing together daily? \_\_\_\_\_

c. They witnessed a Christ-like \_\_\_\_\_ which built a bridge to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Conclusion:** 1. What contributed to the rapid growth of the church of Jesus Christ in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, both numerically and spiritually? See John 13:34-35; 17:20-21

2. Was the Lord's prayer answered? What about now?

# Jerusalem

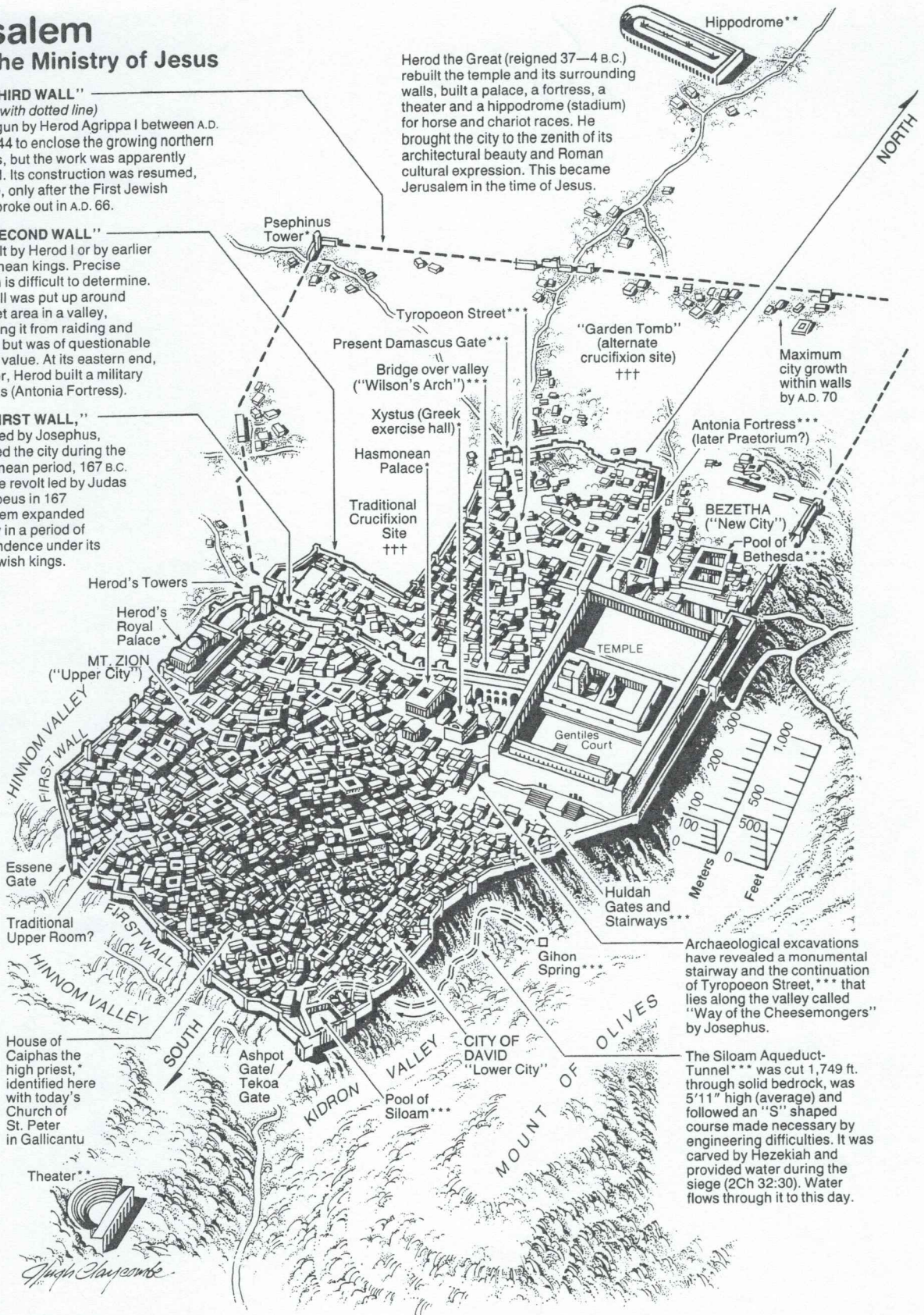
## During the Ministry of Jesus

The **"THIRD WALL"** (shown with dotted line) was begun by Herod Agrippa I between A.D. 41 and 44 to enclose the growing northern suburbs, but the work was apparently stopped. Its construction was resumed, in haste, only after the First Jewish Revolt broke out in A.D. 66.

The **"SECOND WALL"** was built by Herod I or by earlier Hasmonean kings. Precise location is difficult to determine. This wall was put up around a market area in a valley, protecting it from raiding and looting, but was of questionable military value. At its eastern end, however, Herod built a military barracks (Antonia Fortress).

The **"FIRST WALL,"** so named by Josephus, encircled the city during the Hasmonean period, 167 B.C. After the revolt led by Judas Maccabeus in 167 Jerusalem expanded steadily in a period of independence under its own Jewish kings.

Herod the Great (reigned 37—4 B.C.) rebuilt the temple and its surrounding walls, built a palace, a fortress, a theater and a hippodrome (stadium) for horse and chariot races. He brought the city to the zenith of its architectural beauty and Roman cultural expression. This became Jerusalem in the time of Jesus.



Archaeological excavations have revealed a monumental stairway and the continuation of Tyropoeon Street, \*\*\* that lies along the valley called "Way of the Cheesemongers" by Josephus.

The Siloam Aqueduct-Tunnel\*\* was cut 1,749 ft. through solid bedrock, was 5'11" high (average) and followed an "S" shaped course made necessary by engineering difficulties. It was carved by Hezekiah and provided water during the siege (2Ch 32:30). Water flows through it to this day.

\* Location generally known, but style of architecture is unknown; artist's concept only, and Roman architecture is assumed.  
\*\* Location and architecture unknown, but referred to in written history; shown here for illustrative purposes.  
\*\*\* Ancient feature has remained, or appearance has been determined from evidence.

Buildings, streets and roads shown here are artist's concept only unless otherwise named and located. Wall heights remain generally unknown, except for those surrounding the Temple Mount.

DEEP VALLEYS on the east, south and west permitted urban expansion only to the north.